

## REVIEWS OF PUBLICATIONS

Handbook of Birds of the Western United States. Florence Merriam Bailey. Houghton, Mifflin Co. \$3.50, net. Fourth Edition Revised.

This last edition of a well known and useful book is in the main a reprint of earlier editions, but with an extended "Addenda" of 58 pages, in which are indicated the changes in the nomenclature made in the last revisions of the Check-List of the A. O. U. committee, together with the addition of 56 forms and the elimination of 52. The last part of this "Addenda" is concerned with the "Birds of the Western United States in the Nomenclature of the 1910 Check-List," and with a list of "Books of Reference." The book was so complete for its purposes in the first edition that there has been little need for other changes than those given above.

L. J.

Alaskan Bird-Life as Depicted by Many Writers, edited by Ernest Ingersoll. Seven plates in colors and other illustrations. Published by the National Association of Audubon Societies. New York, 1914.

As stated in the introduction by T. Gilbert Pearson, the Secretary of this Association, the object of this volume of 72 pages is for free distribution among the people of Alaska for the purpose of educating them in regard to the real value of the birds and thus securing their coöperation in the conservation of Alaskan birds. This finds the hearty approval of the United States Bureau of Education. The birds of the several districts into which Alaska is divided topographically and climatically are treated on the group plan, and the volume closes with the extended treatment of the Tufted Puffin by William Leon Dawson, the Crested Auklet by Charles Haskins Townsend, the Emperor Goose by Edward W. Nelson, the Hudsonian Curlew by A. C. Bent, and the Alaskan Longspur by Edward W. Nelson. There are colored plates of these species, and of the Red Crossbill. It is a valuable volume. L. J.

A Peculiarity in the Growth of the Tail Feathers of the Giant Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*). Alex. Wetmore, of the Biological Survey, U. S. Dept. Agr. No. 2059. From the Proceedings of the U. S. Nat. Mus. Vol. 47, pages 497-500. Published October 24, 1914.

It appears that one tail feather of the central pair of long feathers is fully developed before the young bird leaves the nest, and that in adult life the new feather of this pair grows out under the old one, the latter not being shed until the new one has become fully grown; also that the two central long feathers are shed in